



# Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

*Empowering People in Christ*

## Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

Bedford, Texas

Sunday, February 18, 2024

10:00am

Welcome to this service of worship. We are glad you are here whether it is in person or online. Children are welcome for all aspects of our worship service and church life. To aid parents and children attending in person, children's bulletins and activity bags are available from the ushers. A "Fidgety Friends" room is available upstairs behind the sanctuary if children become restless and parents would like a comfortable place to continue to participate in worship.

### Mission Statement

L- Loving

I- Inclusive

F- Family of Faith

E- Empowering People in Christ

-seeking justice

-loving kindness

-walking humbly (Micah 6:8)

We are a certified PCUSA Earth Care Congregation:

- Our worship and discipleship will celebrate God's grace and glory in creation.
- Our education will encourage and support each other in keeping and healing creation.
- Our facilities will be managed, maintained, and upgraded to respect and cherish all of creation.
- Our outreach will encourage community involvement and public policy to protect and restore the earth.

# Celebration of Worship

First Sunday in Lent

10:00am

February 18, 2024

## We Gather in Worship

### Greeting and Announcements

*[Please note your nearest exit. Silence your cell phones. Restrooms are available behind the sanctuary in the narthex. Remember to add your prayer requests on the sheets provided for inclusion in the Prayers of the People or online by scanning the QR code here.]*



### Centering Words

*If you suddenly and unexpectedly feel joy, don't hesitate. Give in to it. We are not wise, and not very often kind. And much can never be redeemed. Still, life has some possibility left. Perhaps this is its way of fighting back, that sometimes something happens better than all the riches or power in the world. It could be anything, but very likely you notice it in the instant when love begins. Anyway, that's often the case. Anyway, whatever it is, don't be afraid of its plenty. Joy is not made to be a crumb.*

Prelude

Come Thou Fount

Larry Sue

### \*Call to Worship

Lent is not the time for dwelling on our imperfections.

Lent is the time for careful self-reflection and re-connection with Christ.

**For God is indeed our salvation.**

**So we will trust and have no fear.**

Lent is an opportunity for repentance.

A time for having God remake our hearts and reshape our aims.

**In loving kindness, God's anger turned from us.**

**We were drawn close again and comforted.**

Lent is a season for abundant joy.

Exhilarated by defying sin, shattering indifference,

and turning our faces back to the Holy One.

**We will draw water with joy from the springs of salvation!**

**We will sing to the Lord, who has done glorious things!**

\* Hymn (GTG) No. 366

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

HYFRYDOL

## We Are Renewed in Grace

### Invitation to Confession

Lent is a season to move with intention towards Easter. We lay aside what we do not need to carry with us this journey: setting aside the regret, the mistakes, and the heavy loads. We cling to the joy of resurrection life that comes, even now, drawing near to us as we draw near to God.

## Prayer of Confession

**You, you giver! You have given light and life to the world;  
You have given freedom from Pharaoh to your people Israel;  
You have given you only Son for the sake of the world;  
You have given yourself for us; You have given and forgiven, and you  
remember our sins no more. And we, in response, are takers:  
We take eagerly what you give us;  
We take for our neighbors near at hand as is acceptable;  
We take from our unseen neighbors greedily and acquisitively;  
We take from our weak neighbors thoughtlessly;  
We take all that we can lay hands on.  
It dawns on us that our taking does not match your giving.  
In this Lenten season revise our taking, that it may be grateful and disciplined,  
even as you give in ways generous and overwhelming.**

*(Worshippers are invited to offer silent prayers of confession)*

Sung Response (GTG) No. 577      Lord, Have Mercy      KYRIE ELEISON (Reindorf)  
Assurance of Pardon *adapted from Isaiah 40:27-31*

Why do you say, O child of God, "My way is hidden from the LORD,  
and God does not look after me." Have you not known? Have you not heard?  
The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.  
**God does not get worn out from looking after us: God's grace is beyond  
measure. God gives power to the oppressed ones, strength to the weary ones.  
We all get worn out, but in God, we find the strength to soar with joy like  
eagles, to run toward delight, breathless with God's goodness.**

## We Receive God's Word

Children's Gathering      Ken Richardson  
Prayer for Illumination  
New Testament Reading      Mark 1:9-15 (page 910, red Bible)  
Anthem      Jesu, Jesu Fill Us With Your Love      Kevin McChesney  
*(Emmanuel Chancel Choir)*  
Old Testament Reading      Isaiah 12 (page 628, red Bible)  
Sermon Title      enjoyLENT: Saving Joy      Rev. Dr. Whitney Wilkinson Arreche  
\*Hymn (GTG) No. 699      Fill My Cup      FILL MY CUP

## We Experience God's Grace

\*Affirmation of Faith *Henri Nouwen*

**Joy does not simply happen to us. We have to choose joy and keep choosing it every  
day. It is a choice based on the knowledge that we belong to God and have found in**

God our refuge and our safety and that nothing, not even death, can take God away from us. Joy is the experience of knowing that you are unconditionally loved and that nothing – sickness, failure, emotional distress, oppression, war, or even death – can take that love away.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever, amen.**

Offering our Gifts to God

*[Note: if you wish to contribute online, you may do so  
at [emmanuelpc.org](http://emmanuelpc.org) or using the QR code in the bulletin insert.]*

Offertory Spirit of Grace Ben Logan

\*Doxology Glory to God Hymnal, page 607

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below;  
praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

\*Prayer of Dedication

**We may not feel like we have much, Giving God, but we do have enough to look out for our neighbor. We do have enough to help a life in need. We do have enough to make our days count. Use all we offer this day, to bring a bit more joy to this weary world, amen.**

## We Leave to Serve

\*Hymn (GTG) No. 623 I've Got Peace Like a River PEACE LIKE A RIVER

\*Invitation, Charge and Benediction

\*Sign of Peace

\*Postlude Trumpet Tune Manfredini

\*please stand, if able

(GTG) – Glory to God Hymnal

Words in **bold print** are said in unison by the congregation.

*Liturgy by: Mary Oliver, Bruce Pewter, Walter Brueggemann, Thom Shuman, Whitney Wilkinson Arreche.*

### Worship Leaders

Rev. Dr. Whitney Wilkinson Arreche, Pastor

Brittney Axton, Director of Music

Dr. Tak Yan Yeung, Organist

Emmanuel Chancel Choir

Assisting in Today's Service:

Tonia Thompson, Liturgist

Ken Richardson, Children's Gathering

